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PHOTOGRAPHIC INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL AREAS

RUSTAVI, USSR

HTAUTOMAT FILE COPY



24 February 1958
RR-GP/DP-3-58

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Job # 68-T-31
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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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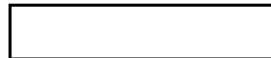
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COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL AREAS

RUSTAVI, USSR



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24 February 1958
RR-GP/DP-3-58

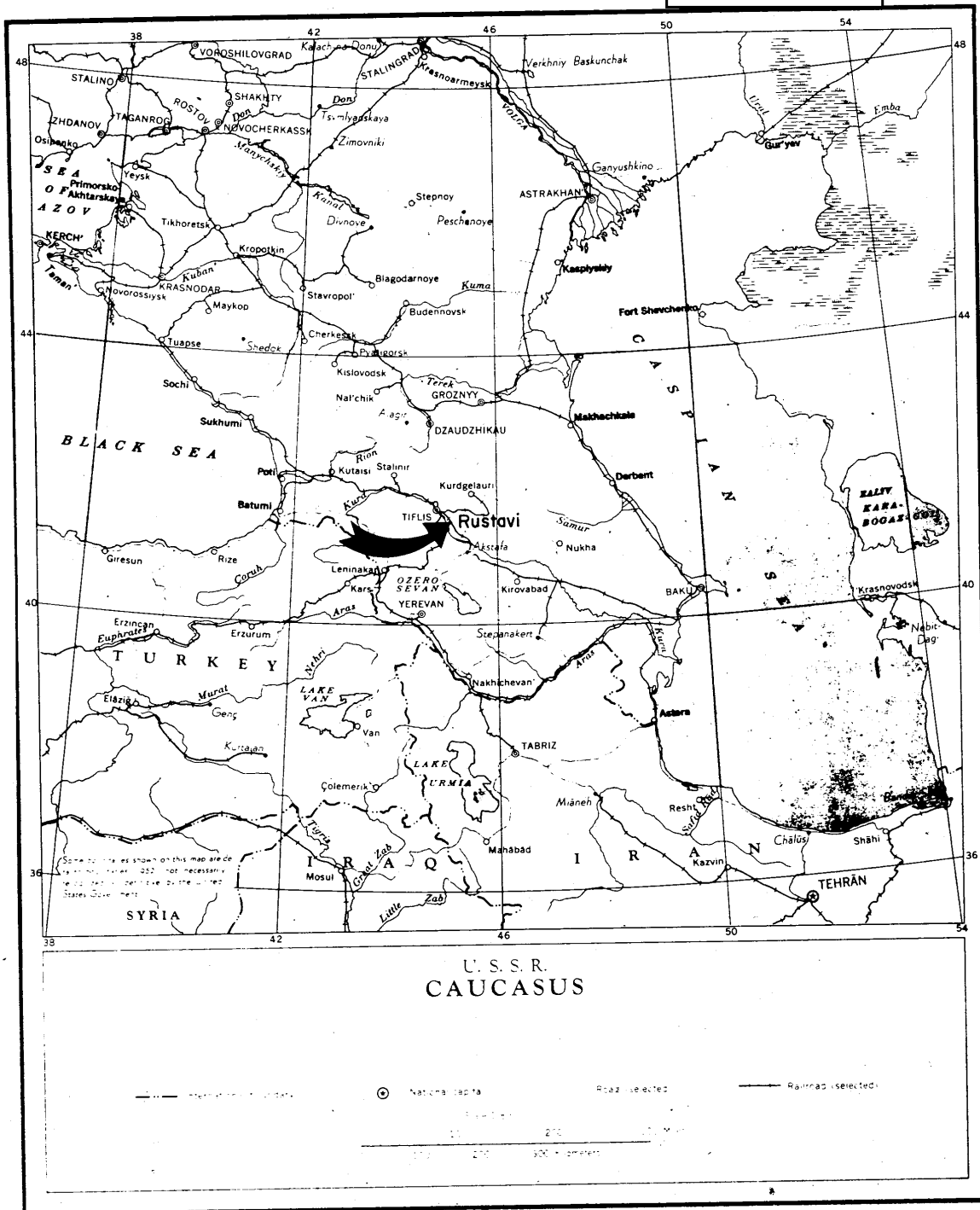
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PREFACE

This photo analysis of the commercial and residential areas of Rustavi is based on small format photography [redacted] in the summer and fall of 1957 [redacted] and has been prepared by the Photo Intelligence Division of ORR. A [redacted] dated 2 October 1957, also describes this city. However, additional photo coverage has made possible this more detailed analysis.

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COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL AREAS

RUSTAVI, USSR

Rustavi is an industrial city located 18 miles southeast of Tbilisi (Tiflis) in the Georgian SSR (see orientation map). Built especially to accommodate industrial workers, technical personnel, and their families, it has modern housing, cultural and social centers, parks, clubs, museums, and hospitals. The city lies on both banks of the Kura River at an elevation of 1,000 to 1,100 feet above sea level. The valley is bordered by foothills of the main Caucasus ranges to the northeast and the Armenian Plateau to the southwest. Mountains with elevations above 6,000 feet lie within 25 miles of the city. Construction of the city began near the end of World War II and the present population is reported to be approximately seventy thousand.

Rustavi has two industries of national significance, the metallurgical works and the nitrogen products plant. There is also a thermal power plant, a cement plant, a sawmill, a concrete mixing plant, and other industries. The city is served by the main rail line between Batumi and Baku. This double-track electrified railroad passes along the north side of the city. Just south of the railroad there are several walled areas which contain construction material in open storage (see items 8 on city plan). One includes a possible concrete-mixing tower (see item 9 on city plan). The sand and gravel pit just north of the railroad probably provides material for the concrete works and for the construction of buildings within the residential and commercial areas.

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The total area of Rustavi is approximately three and seven-tenths square miles. Thirty-eight percent of this area is residential with a building density of ten percent. Most of the buildings within the city proper are three-story, wall-bearing masonry structures with gable tile roofs. Buildings in the northwest and southeast sections of the city are chiefly one and two-story structures. In the extreme southeast section, along the Mariinskiy Canal (see item 15 on city plan) there are numerous very small hut-like dwellings (as indicated on city plan), each with its small plot of land for subsistence crops. At the eastern end of town there is a group of multistory buildings (see item 13 on city plan), which houses administration facilities for the metallurgical works. Expansion of the residential part of the city is limited by the Kura River on the west and south, and by the industrial complex on the east. Continued residential expansion is taking place on the west side of the river.

The city streets are surfaced with bituminous paving, but toward the outskirts only a few main routes have been improved. The main street, Tsentralnyy prospekt (see item 31 on city plan), is a tree-lined avenue 65 feet wide that extends through the center of the city. After crossing the Kura River on a three-span concrete deck-type bridge, Tsentralnyy prospekt joins the main highway between Tbilisi and Kazakh at a point one and one-half miles southwest of the city. The main road from Rustavi to Tbilisi is a hard-surface all weather road which leaves Rustavi in a northwest direction and follows the railroad. Transportation is provided by the railroad and a bus line which originates in Tbilisi.

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The Kura River flows south-southeast past the city in a complex series of interconnected channels, the main one averaging about 350 feet in width. The land along the east bank of the river has been flooded in the past, but construction of walls and a control dam has virtually ended possibility of flooding in this area. The dam (see item 2 on city plan), which measures approximately 360 feet along the crest and has five control gates, is used to regulate the river flow, to divert water into the Mariinskiy Canal, and to supply water to the newly constructed reservoir (see item 3 on city plan). This reservoir, which is used for water storage during the seasonal dry spells, is bordered on the north by a park which indicates that it is also used for recreational purposes. There is no transformer yard visible at the dam which reportedly has been built to produce hydroelectric power for the city.

A diversion wall (see item 28 on city plan) directs the stream flow toward a pump house which feeds the main water works (see item 4 on city plan). This wall is possibly a portion of a dam reported to have been built soon after World War II and later partially destroyed by flood waters. The water works, which supplies water for the industrial area only, includes three sedimentation tanks and a fourth under construction. Water flows to the industrial area by an underground canal (see item 16 on city plan) which passes under the north section of the city. Water which has been used within the industrial area is returned by another underground canal to a sedimentation pond along the Kura River, southeast of the city. The domestic water supply is reported to be piped in from north of Tbilisi.

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The Mariinskiy Canal, which forms the southern boundary of the city, flows southeast into Lake Dzhandar-gel. The canal is reportedly used to irrigate collective farms to the southeast and dispose of city sewage. A newly constructed possible sewage treatment plant (see item 14 on city plan) just south of the city consists of eight small tanks and a filtration unit. Effluent is probably discharged into the Mariinskiy Canal.

Utilities within the Rustavi area are generally adequate for the industries and civilian populace. Electrical power is supplied by a thermal power plant within the metallurgical works and by a power line which may originate at the hydroelectric power plant at Zemo Avchala, approximately four miles northwest of Tbilisi. This power line enters the Rustavi area from the west at the new housing area, crosses the river at the control dam, and follows the southeast border of the city along the canal. Two connecting lines enter the industrial area directly south of the thermal power plant. The line continues east from this point to the railroad where it makes a turn directly north and crosses the industrial area to the substation (see item 19 on city plan). From the substation, power lines lead out to the northwest and northeast.

A reported military installation is located just north of town (see item 23 on city plan). This installation consists of numerous barracks-type buildings and a walled area in which six long flat-roofed buildings are grouped among others in a layout suggesting a tank repair depot or part of an armored unit. The small airfield which was reported to be in Rustavi has probably been abandoned due to the expansion of industry. Possible forced labor camps or penal camps occupy two secured areas

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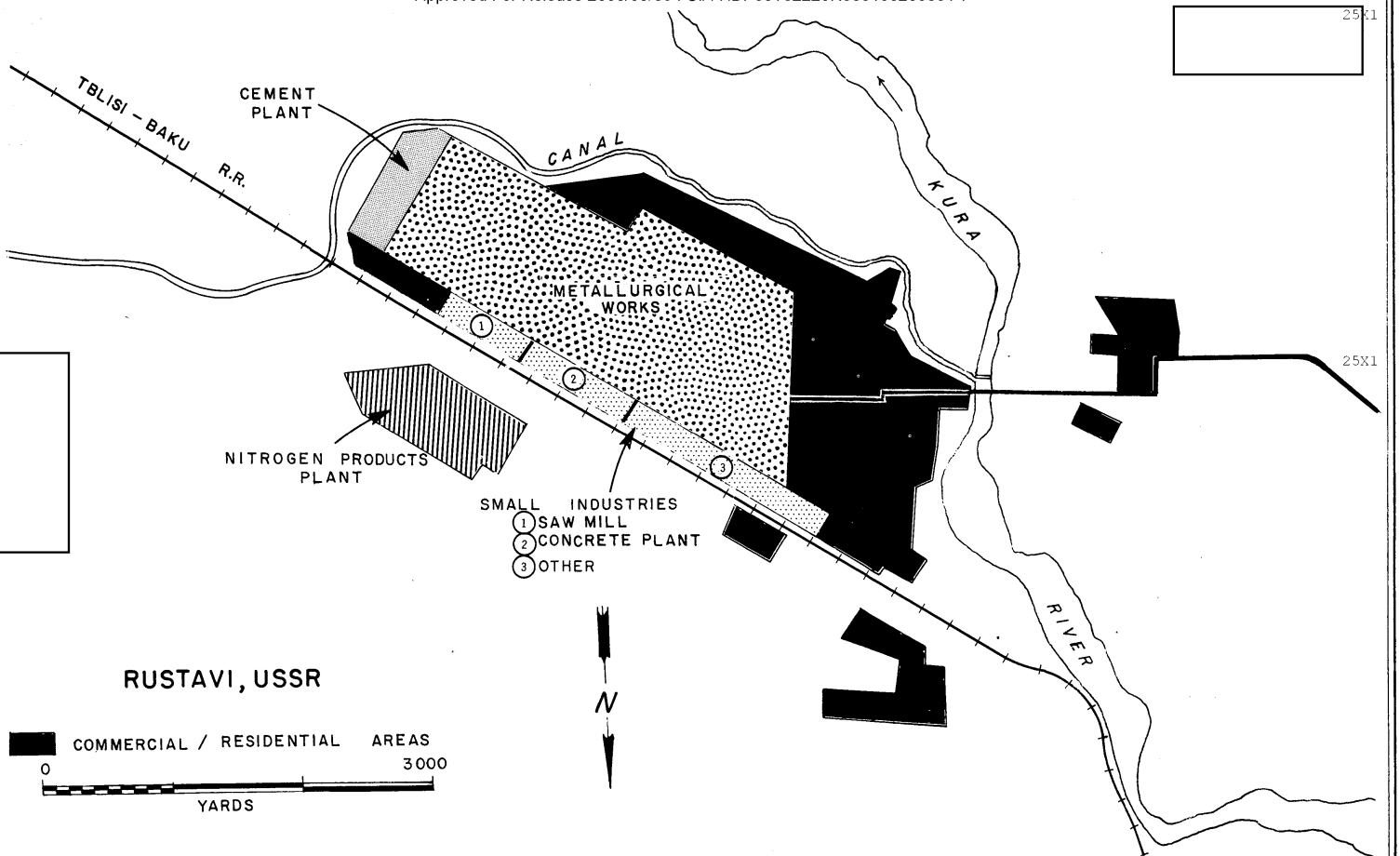
between the industrial plants and the Mariinskiy Canal (see items 27 on city plan). Each of these areas is surrounded by a wall along which there are numerous unevenly-spaced guard towers. Within these areas walls divide the compounds into sections. Both areas have the same general characteristics except that the larger secured area has a greater number of dividing walls and guard towers.

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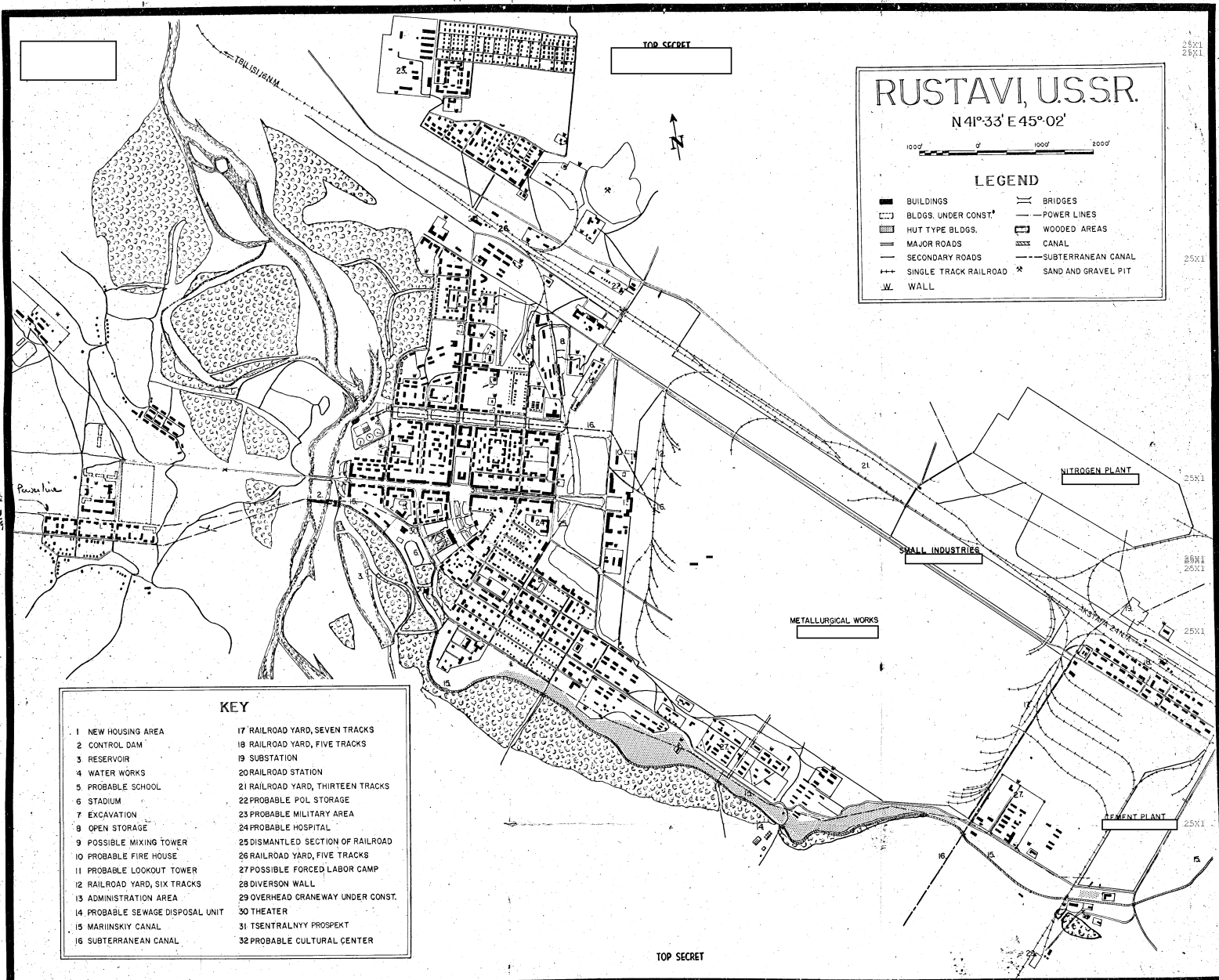
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RUSTAVI, USSR

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